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November 21, 2011

Dear Friends of Ann Arbor Civic Theatre,

The A2CT community extends far beyond the participants you see on stage. We rely on the financial support of our entire Civic family—artists, members, patrons, and volunteers—to bring quality theatre opportunities and performances to the Ann Arbor area.

Kevin Binkley, a local actor who graced the Civic Stage for years in the past, in shows such as *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Sound of Music* and *Oklahoma!*, recently sent us a letter where he reflected on why he continues to be a contributing member to Ann Arbor Civic Theatre.

The primary reason I continue to be a member of A2CT and provide financial support, even though I've lived in North Carolina for 8 years, is I value its contributions to its members and the community. I also feel I owe continued support because of the bountiful gifts that A2CT shared generously with me while I was able to perform with it, including amazing performance opportunities and many meaningful friendships.

Some of my most fond experiences and moments of greatest joy, pride, and fulfillment relate to Civic Theatre. While I gave of my time and talents, I received so much more than what I contributed. It's only fair that I continue to support A2CT even though the situation is now reversed.

I see value when I return to Michigan and have a chance to attend an A2CT show. I see the continued high quality of those shows, the joy that my friends realize as they continue to perform and I see it when I read a review that highlights the performance of a new performer or someone who has blossomed through the years from walk-on role to character or lead role.

I've witnessed the germination of talent on the A2CT stage that has given rise to actors who have gone on to perform on stages at prestigious universities, Broadway, and venues throughout the world. Who knows if those actors would have ever realized their talents or experienced their future successes had A2CT not played a part. I take pride in being a part of an organization that nurtures such talent, and in affecting lives. I've seen many persons "find themselves" (or new or under-developed parts of themselves) through the challenging, creative, collaborative, risk-taking, rewarding experiences of show production ... Plus, if I have the opportunity to return to Ann Arbor some day, I want A2CT to be around so I can perform there again! In that context, my membership is an investment in my future happiness.

There are many couples and families that owe their existence to A2CT. The ability to foster those relationships is inherent of something very special, both within the organization and the persons who are drawn to it and a part of it. It's exciting to see new generations of families take the stage next to older ones.

Those relationships constitute a family of sorts - A family that embraces everyone, including those new to the area and those that have left it....I miss the shows, the performance opportunities, and friends. I miss being on stage, being a member of a show team, and engaging audiences in delight with quality theatre productions. That I continue to miss these things after 8 years speaks to the uniqueness of A2CT. It's very difficult to duplicate the experiences that A2CT can provide. Perhaps my continued membership reflects, in part, a desire to hold on to those things, to ensure they don't lose the relevance in my heart that they deserve. I love Ann Arbor Civic Theatre! (And I miss it!) - Kevin

Kevin's words speak to what it means to be a contributing member of our community theatre family, and why we need your financial support. Please join Kevin in giving generously to A2CT this year.

Sincerely,

Suzi Peterson
Managing Director

Cassie Mann
Program Director

P.S. To make a gift online today, please visit www.a2ct.org.